

Claims

What is claimed is:

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1. A system for authenticating an intelligent agent, said system comprising:  
an identifier which ascertains the location and identity of an entry intelligent agent  
attempting to gain access to the location, the identity being ascertained via an  
identification tag associated with the intelligent agent;

5 a general register of identification tags corresponding to a plurality of intelligent  
agents and of possible locations at which the registered intelligent agents may gain access;  
and

10 a threshold manager which permits access, to a given location, of an entry  
intelligent agent that corresponds to at least one intelligent agent in said general register.

2. The system according to Claim 1, wherein said threshold manager is adapted to  
deny access to an entry intelligent agent that does not correspond to at least one intelligent  
agent in said general register.

15 3. The system according to Claim 1, wherein said general register comprises a  
database.

4. The system according to Claim 1, wherein said identification tags comprise identification numbers.

5. The system according to Claim 1, wherein said threshold manager is adapted to prompt local authentication of an entry intelligent agent in accordance with at least one criterion involving non-recognition of the entry intelligent agent.

6. The system according to Claim 5, wherein the local authentication of an entry intelligent agent prompted by said threshold manager includes requesting a digital signature.

7. The system according to Claim 1, wherein said threshold manager is adapted to compare the ascertained location of an entry intelligent agent with at least one location in said general register that corresponds to the entry intelligent agent and permits access of the entry intelligent agent to the ascertained location if the ascertained location coincides with one of said at least one location in said general register.

8. The system according to Claim 1, wherein said threshold manager is adapted to deny access of the entry intelligent agent to the given location if a time-based criterion is not satisfied.

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9. The system according to Claim 8, wherein the time-based criterion involves whether the entry intelligent agent has requested access to two different locations within a period of time that is less than a predetermined threshold time value.

10. The system according to Claim 1, wherein said identifier includes a position locator system.

11. A method of authenticating an intelligent agent, said method comprising the steps of:

ascertaining the location and identity of an entry intelligent agent attempting to gain access to the location, the identity being ascertained via an identification tag associated with the intelligent agent;

providing a general register of identification tags corresponding to a plurality of intelligent agents and of possible locations at which the registered intelligent agents may gain access; and

permitting access, to a given location, of an entry intelligent agent that corresponds to at least one intelligent agent in said general register.

12. The method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of denying access to an entry intelligent agent that does not correspond to at least one intelligent agent in said general register.

13. The method according to Claim 11, wherein said general register comprises a database.

14. The method according to Claim 11, wherein said identification tags comprise identification numbers.

15. The method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of prompting local authentication of an entry intelligent agent in accordance with at least one criterion involving non-recognition of the entry intelligent agent.

16. The method according to Claim 15, wherein said step of prompting local authentication of an entry intelligent agent prompted comprises requesting a digital signature.

17. The method according to Claim 11, wherein said step of permitting access comprises comparing the ascertained location of an entry intelligent agent with at least one location in said general register that corresponds to the entry intelligent agent and permits

access of the entry intelligent agent to the ascertained location if the ascertained location coincides with one of said at least one location in said general register.

18. The method according to Claim 11, further comprising the step of denies access of the entry intelligent agent to the given location if a time-based criterion is not satisfied.

19. The method according to Claim 18, wherein the time-based criterion involves whether the entry intelligent agent has requested access to two different locations within a period of time that is less than a predetermined threshold time value.

20. The method according to Claim 11, wherein said ascertaining step comprises utilizing a position locator system to ascertain the location of an entry intelligent agent.

21. A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for authenticating an intelligent agent, said method comprising the steps of:

ascertaining the location and identity of an entry intelligent agent attempting to gain access to the location, the identity being ascertained via an identification tag associated with the intelligent agent;

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providing a general register of identification tags corresponding to a plurality of intelligent agents and of possible locations at which the registered intelligent agents may gain access; and

permitting access, to a given location, of an entry intelligent agent that corresponds

- 5 to at least one intelligent agent in said general register.

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